

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing information in a receiver of a multichannel optical communication system, comprising:

receiving a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) signal having a symbol rate and comprising a plurality of ~~non-intensity~~ phase modulated optical information signals having a minimum channel spacing that is greater than  $(N+0.4)B$  and less than  $(N+0.6)B$ , where  $B$  comprises the symbol rate of the WDM signal and  $N$  ~~comprises~~ is an integer;

demultiplexing the ~~non-intensity~~ phase modulated optical information signals from the WDM signal;

converting each of the ~~non-intensity~~ phase modulated optical information signals to an intensity modulated optical information signal using an asymmetric interferometer; and

recovering a data signal from the intensity modulated optical information signal.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the minimum channel spacing is substantially equal to  $(N+0.5)B$ , where  $B$  ~~comprises~~ is the symbol rate of the WDM signal and  $N$  ~~comprises~~ is an integer.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the symbol rate ~~comprises~~ is a transmission bit rate of the WDM signal.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the asymmetric interferometer comprises an asymmetric ~~Mach-Zender~~ Mach-Zehnder interferometer.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the asymmetric interferometer comprises two interferometer paths having a path length difference operable to create a one symbol period shift in the optical information signal.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising recovering the data signal as an electrical signal using a dual detector.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An optical receiver for a wavelength division multiplex (WDM) optical communication system, comprising:

a demultiplexer operable to demultiplex a wavelength division multiplex (WDM) signal into a plurality of ~~non-intensity~~ phase modulated optical information signals, wherein the WDM signal comprises a symbol rate and the ~~non-intensity~~ phase modulated optical information signals have a minimum channel spacing that is greater than  $(N+0.4)B$  and less than  $(N+0.6)B$ , where  $B$  ~~comprises~~ is the symbol rate of the WDM signal and  $N$  ~~comprises~~ is an integer;

an asymmetric interferometer operable to receive a corresponding one of the plurality of ~~non-intensity~~ phase modulated optical information signals;

the asymmetric interferometer operable to convert the ~~non-intensity~~ phase modulated optical information signal into an intensity modulated optical information signal; and

a detector operable to recover a data signal from the intensity-modulated optical information signal.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The optical receiver of Claim 9, wherein the symbol rate ~~comprises~~ is a bit rate of the WDM signal.

12. (Currently Amended) The optical receiver of Claim 9, wherein the asymmetric interferometer comprises a ~~Mach-Zehnder~~ Mach-Zehnder interferometer.

13. (Original) The optical receiver of Claim 9, wherein the asymmetric interferometer comprises two interferometer paths having a path length difference operable to generate a one-bit shift in the optical information signal.

14. (Original) The optical receiver of Claim 9, wherein the detector comprises a balanced dual detector.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating information in a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) optical communication system, comprising:

transmitting each of a plurality of a data signals using ~~non-intensity~~ phase modulation of a wavelength disparate carrier signal, the carrier signals having a minimum channel spacing that is greater than  $(N+0.4)B$  and less than  $(N+0.6)B$ , where  $B$  ~~comprises~~ is the symbol rate of the WDM signal and  $N$  ~~comprises~~ is an integer;

converting the ~~non-intensity~~ phase modulation of the carrier signals into an intensity modulation using an asymmetric ~~Mach-Zender~~ Mach-Zehnder interferometer; and

recovering the data signal using a detector coupled to an output of the ~~Mach-Zender~~ Mach-Zehnder interferometer.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 17, wherein the asymmetric ~~Mach-Zender~~ Mach-Zehnder interferometer comprises a path length difference of one bit and complementary outputs.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein the detector is a dual detector coupled to the complementary outputs of the ~~Mach-Zender~~ Mach-Zehnder interferometer.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 17, wherein the minimum channel spacing is substantially equal to  $(N+0.5)B$ , where  $B$  ~~comprises~~ is the symbol rate of the WDM signal and  $N$  ~~comprises~~ is an integer.